

U.S. Rep. Tom Udall (NM-3)
Floor Statement
H.R. 2 – Minimum Wage Increase

Madame Speaker,

I rise today to state my support for this legislation that would provide a long overdue increase in the minimum wage for millions of workers around the country. As many of my colleagues have stated today, Congress has failed to increase the minimum wage for more than nine years. This is the longest period in the history of the minimum wage that it has not been increased. This is unacceptable and I am pleased we finally are taking action today to remedy this situation.

America's families have seen their real income drop by almost \$1,300 since 2000, while the costs of health insurance, gasoline, home heating, and college attendance have increased by almost \$5,000 annually. America's families have been squeezed for far too long. Increasing the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour, which this legislation would do over the period of two years, is not a panacea for the hard working men and women who earn the minimum wage in our economy. However, everyone can agree that additional money in the pockets and savings accounts of these 13 million Americans will be of some help.

I strongly support H.R. 2 and urge my colleagues to do the same. Thank you and I yield back.